Genter for Youth Development and Intervention (GYDI)

SPRING 2021

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Bradley White

Dr. White is an associate professor in Psychology at CYDI where he directs the Cognition, Emotion, and Self-Regulation (CEaSR) Lab. He is a licensed psychologist who works with a range of mental health problems in children, adolescents, and adults across clinical, correctional, and community settings. He serves various professional roles including as consulting editor of the *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology* and co-editor of *The Oxford Handbook of Child and Adolescent Psychology*.



What do you study and why?

We study the development, impact, and treatment of disruptive behavior problems in youth (e.g., aggression, rule-breaking). We study risk and protective factors for antisociality, and we design and test interventions to reduce disruptive and increase prosocial behavior (e.g., helping, cooperating). We are also interested in extending the reach of effective interventions to underserved individuals, families, and communities.

What do you like best about Alabama?

I love UA and our wonderful colleagues and students, the weather (except the summer heat!), the diversity of the people as well as the natural habitats and wildlife of Alabama, and the outdoor recreation opportunities.

What do you do in your free time?

I enjoy reading, hiking, biking, paddle boarding, swimming, and spending time with family.

Gognition, Emotion, and Self-Regulation Lab

OUR STUDIES

FAST: FACIAL AFFECT SENSITIVITY TRAINING FOR CHILDREN

This study, funded by the National Institute of Mental health, tests a new computerized treatment for children 6 - 11 years old who do not have a prior diagnosis of autism and who experience certain difficulties, including not feeling guilty when they do something wrong and not being concerned for the feelings of others. Such difficulties can put children at risk for developing behavioral problems. Enrollment for this program is now open and there is no cost. Caregivers get a total of \$300 to finish the study and children earn small toys and some cash prizes. Interested? Contact Shane Jones via email at jones178@ua.edu or phone 205-348-3525.









REACHING AT-RISK YOUTH THROUGH PEDIATRIC SERVICES

Over 50% of mental health (MH) disorders emerge during childhood and adolescence, but many of these youth never receive treatment. Pediatric clinics often refer youth to MH services, but referred families do not always pursue services.

In collaboration with the University Medical Center, we are studying what prevents families from pursuing MH services after receiving a referral from a doctor. This study is led by Rebecca Revilla (doctoral student) with help from Drs. Bradley White, Jenny Cundiff and Abbey Gregg.

Gognition, Emotion, and Self-Regulation Lab

OUR STUDIES

INTERNET-BASED COPING POWER

Our lab is working with Dr. John Lochman and colleagues to expand the knowledge of Coping Power (CP), an evidence-based intervention for youth at risk for aggression and related behaviors.

Meagan Heilman (doctoral student) has focused her research on a briefer internet-based version of CP and found that this version is feasible and may reduce proactive aggression. She is now studying if peer acceptance impacts CP outcomes.







YOUTH TRAUMA & RESPONSE TO RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT

Over 50% of children in residential treatment programs have experienced trauma, which is related to maladaptive impacts such as increased psychopathology and decreased treatment response.

Breanna Dede (doctoral student) is working with a local youth residential treatment facility to study the relationships among trauma, risk behaviors, and response to the residential treatment milieu. She is also looking at gender, age, and race.



Upcoming CYDI Seminars

Visit cydi.ua.edu/events to register!

Sponsored by The Alabama Life Research Institute
Behavioral Health Consortium







Kimberly D. Becker, Ph.D.

Engaging Youths and Families in Mental Health Services: Research Synthesis and Applications in Practice

Friday, April 30, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://uasystem.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkf-igqj4tGt1nZI3T10x5ZuD-BW0XVSvR



Kimberly Becker, Ph.D., is a license and on Associate Professor in the Psychology at the University of So

Amberly secker, Pr.D., is a licensed clinical psychologist and an Associate Professior in the Department of Psychology at the University of South Carolina. The author of more than 60 publications, pt. Becker's research focuses on extending the reach of effective psychosocial interventions, with specific interests in clinical decision-macking and treatment engagement. With two awards from the William T. Garan Foundation, Dr. Becker is the Co-Pl for the Reaching Families multistle trial (Chorpita, Pl), an investigation of strategies to improve the use of evidence by clinicians and supervisors to increase family engagement in mental health services. This trial is undervay in a metal of the profiles and the services are supported to the profile of the profiles of the public schools as well as in multiple counties in rural South Carolina.

1 CEU available for Psychology, Social Work, and

Learning Objectives:

- 1. To describe the problem of low treatment engagement in mental health services.
- 2. To establish a shared understanding of the multiple dimensions of treatment engagement.
- To underscore the importance of assessing engagement early in services through a discussion of how assessment is related to planning and resolving engagement concerns.
- 4. To increase knowledge of strategies for assessing engagement and initiating open conversations about engagement with youths, families, and colleagues to facilitate solutions to engagement concerns.

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Nancy Anderson, JD

You Are Your Child's BEST Advocate! An Introduction to Special Education Rights to Rev Up Your Advocacy

Tuesday, May 4, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Register in advance for this meeting: https://uasystem.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwpce-oqispHtaGVJEmpAh5w60TruJ2SJdi

Nancy Anderson is the Disabilities Advocacy federally-mandated persons with disabilities.

Duebhlites Advoccey Frogram (ADAP), Alabama's federally-mandated protection and advoccy agency for persons with disabilities. Nancy, on attorney, chairs ADAP's Children's Advoccey fear which addresses issues such as children's mental health, special education, assisted technology, juvenile justice, and Medicaid. She coordinate technology, juvenile justice, and Medicaid. She coordinate the Team's case management and systemic advocacy on behalf of children and provides outreach and training in special education and other disability issues to professional providers and, most especially, to families, seeking to help empower them in their own self-advoccy. She agraduate of Wellesley College and received her law decrees from Rutters I bluversity.

1 CEU available for sychology, Social Work, and

Learning Objectives:

- Attendees will understand the obligation schools have to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) under federal law to eligible students with disabilities.
- Attendees will understand how special education services support all the disability-related needs of students with disabilities.
- 3. Attendees will be empowered with self-advocacy skills to advocate for the needs of their children.

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Connie Kasari, Ph.D.

Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder at school: Inclusion, integration, and improvement Wednesday, May 12, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Register in advance for this meeting: https://uasystem.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUlceuhqzMtH9J7xJAlbCQ-a2g94BbZu-eL



Learning Objectives

- 1. Participants will be able to identify two core areas of impairment for children with ASD at school.
- 2. Participants will identify at least two research tested methods for improving core impairments.
- 3. Participants will identify two ways to individualize interventions in order to better meet their student needs.



Dr. Kasari is Distinguished Professor of Human Development and Psychiatry at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is a founding member of the Center for Autism Research and Treatment at UCLA. Her research aims to develop novel, evidence-tested interventions implemented in community

1 CEU available for Psychology, Social Work, and Education

Studies Recruiting at CYDI

L.E.A.P.

Learning Emotion Awareness Program

LEAP is a new research project to see how well a brief online program can can help children manage their emotions. LEAP will take place online twice a week for 10 weeks. Participation includes online questionnaires for parents and children.

- Limited time involvement
- Designed to help children manage their intense emotions
- Compensation for study-related assessment

Here are the requirements:

- 1. Children 9-11 years old
- 2. Have difficulty managing emotions
- 3. Access to internet and a device that can support Zoom

For more information or to make an appointment to participate, please contact me, Josh Golt, at jdgolt@crimson.ua.edu or (205) 348-6551



UA IFB Approved Document
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BrainREAD: How Does The Brain Understand Language?

Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes, an organization dedicated to enhancing human learning, and the Cognition, Brain, & Autism Lab (CBrA Lab) at the Department of Psychology, University of Alabama-Birmingham have teamed up on an exciting new research study aimed at investigating the impact of a comprehensive language based intervention program on brain structure, brain functioning, and brain connectivity in children with autism and children with reading comprehension difficulties.

Who can participate?

- -Must be diagnosed with or meet the criteria for an Autism Spectrum Disorder OR have significant reading comprehension difficulties
- -Must be between 7-13 years old
- -Must be right-handed
- -Must be a native English speaker
- -Must not have braces or claustrophobia

What are the benefits?

The primary benefit will be that you get the opportunity to participate in an intensive intervention program free of cost. This training program might result in a significant improvement in your language comprehension.

What are we studying?

In this study, we are going to be observing how your brain responds when you read and understand words and sentences. Sometimes, you may be asked to read a sentence or a story and then decide whether it makes sense or not. Other times you might be asked to read a group of words and decide if the words go together.

As you work on the tasks, we will use a special type of brain scan that is called functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to see what your brain is doing. This machine uses a large magnet and radio waves to form images of your brain.

Adolescent Friendship and Social Media Study

- Do you have an adolescent child (with or without a chronic illness) between the ages of 11 and 17 who uses social media like Facebook or Instagram?
- Are you interested in helping us understand how social media helps adolescents (with and without a chronic illness) stay connected while social distancing?



If you answered "yes" then you and your adolescent are eligible to participate in a research study that is examining the importance of friendships and social media use.

During this study:

- •We will ask you and your adolescent to complete questionnaires about social media use and well-being.
- •Your adolescent will also be asked to refer a close friend to the study and both will complete online questionnaires about friendship quality, support, hope, and coping.

\$50 electronic gift cards will be raffled for participants (40 for adolescent participants and 20 for parents).

If-you or someone you know is interested, please contact: Dr. Deborah Casper at dmcasper@ches.ua.edu for the link to the online consent form and survey or for more information about the study.

UA IRB Approved Docume Approval date: 10-8-20 Expiration date: 10-7-21

Visit
cydi.ua.edu/researchprojects for more
information on all
research at CYDI